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LEGISLATURE, MA

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 25th January 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Campaign in Kanyakumari district

* 27 *Q*.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that a campaign has been started in Kanyakumari district to urge the Prime Minister and the President of India for a plebiscite to decide whether the district should remain in Madras State or be retransferred to Kerala ; and

(*b*) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government do not propose to take any action.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Did the Government receive complaints from people that they were treated not with respect by our officers?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is a general complaint that we hear from time to time. If there are specific cases, Government would look into them.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Did the Government receive from the teachers and headmasters of Government and private schools that they were treated very badly by the officers of the Department of Education?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We have no information like that.

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: கேரளத்துடன் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவர்கள் "அஜிடேஷன்" நடத்தினார்கள் என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : தெரியும். இதைப் பற்றி நாம் அதிகமாக விவாதம் பண்ணுவது அவசியமில்லையென்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஏனென்றால், இதற்கெல்லாம் செவி சாய்ப்பதில்லையென்று இறுதியாக முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it a fact that the Government, in order that people may not have any grievances, are trying their best to help these people in the matter of developmental activities and also representation in Services?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am thankful to the hon. Whip of the Opposition. Frankly, Government are trying to undertake special works to see that the area which are now merged in our State are given adequate facilities in all matters.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are the Government aware of the news that appeared in 'The Mail' that there is a strong move on the part of these people to cut away from us?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There was a move but it was neither strong nor effective.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware that a big agitation is carried on by the people of Malabar which was till yesterday with Madras that they are neglected by Kerala Government?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We do not encourage that also.

Secretary, Finance Department

* 28 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Secretary of the Finance Department is also a Member of the Board of Revenue and if so, the reasons for combining these two posts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : Sri T. A. Varghese, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Finance Department, was promoted as Member, Board of Revenue, in his turn from 18th January 1960 to 21st October 1960, without prejudice to his appointment as Secretary to Government, as his services were required in the Secretariat on administrative grounds. The posts of Member, Board of Revenue, and the Secretary to Government, have not been combined.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Why did the Government think it proper to appoint a person as Member of the Revenue Board when his services were so indispensable to the Finance Department in the Secretariat?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : He earned that promotion and he was eligible for it. Because he was indispensable to the Finance Department, he was retained in the Finance Department.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Does it mean that if a gentleman were to leave the service, the Secretariat will go without a Finance Secretary? Is there anybody so indispensable in the world?